

**Commissioners' Workshop Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 15, 2004**

***I. CALL TO ORDER:***

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 15, 2004, at 10:30 AM, in the thirteenth floor Board Room of the Berks County Services Center, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Commissioner Chair Judith L. Schwank called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Thomas Gajewski was on vacation. Also present were Chief Clerk, Terry L. Styer, County Administrator, William E. Dennis and Solicitor Alan Miller.

Commissioner Schwank followed with a moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

***II. PROCLAMATIONS/CERTIFICATES/PRESENTATIONS:***

Reading's Mayor, Tom McMahon, Berks County Chamber of Commerce incoming Chairman, Merv Heller, Chamber President Tony Grimm, Reading Councilwoman and the Chamber's Vice President of Communications, Donna Reed presented an update of the Chamber's Business Retention Initiatives for the County of Berks. Chairman Merv Heller explained the first business retention outreach program with is being conducted in partnership with Berks Economic Partnership, The Greater Berks Development fund, The Manufacturers Association, the Berks Co. Industrial Development Authority, The City of Reading and Met-Ed. He described this first phase of confidential interviews of businesses throughout the county, which will follow with resolutions of issues as common concern trends begin to surface. The second initiative was presented by Karen Marsdale, Vice President of Marketing of the Berks County Chamber of Commerce and Christian Leinbach of Westlawn Graphic who unveiled plans for the publication of the Berks County 2005 Comprehensive business directory that will be called "All about Berks." They indicated that this publication entirely funded by advertisers and the Chamber, will consist of 80-120 pages of information on Berks County, business, education, social and recreation activities for our citizens. Current plans are to publish 12,500 copies, which will be free to the City and County for distribution.

The Board of Commissioners then discussed and approved the following items for listing at the June 15, 2004 Commissioners Meeting:

***III. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS:***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the Nursing Home Intergovernmental Transfer Program pursuant to the Commonwealth Agreement and Cooperation Agreement; and further granting authorization for any and all lawful actions necessary to effectuate Berks County's participation in said Program.

***Commissioner Schwank***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing the execution of the County of Berks Hazardous Material Emergency Response Preparedness Assessment calendar for 2003. Bob Osika, Berks County Emergency Management Coordinator explained that this required assessment of 2003 Hazardous Material Responses is provided to the State to enable the County to utilize the Act 165 funds that are paid from the estimated 270 facilities in the county that store "reportable" chemicals.
- B. Adopt Resolution Appointing Darlington Hoopes Jr. Esq. 1749 Westwood Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610 as the Berks County designee to the Berks Community Action Advisory Committee.
- C. Adopt Resolution to amend Resolution 612-03 which initially approved the Consolidated Plan for FFY 2004 – FFY 2008 Community Development Funds by reallocating those approved funds to either a contingency fund or to other proposed projects as presented by Ken Pick.
- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing Edward McCann to sign On-The Job Training Contracts and Subsidized Employment Agreements per list dated June 11, 2004.

***Commissioner Scott***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing Continuation of Maintenance for a male child born 6/17/86, on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, effective 6/17/04 through 6/30/05 in the form of Purchased Care from Concern at the per diem rate of \$82.50 to allow for completion of high school.
- B. Adopt Resolution authorizing Continuation of Maintenance for a male child born 6/17/86, on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, effective 6/17/04 through 6/17/05 in the form of Purchased Care from Family Care Services Inc. at the per diem rate of \$20.91 to allow for completion of high school.
- C. Adopt Resolution authorizing Continuation of Maintenance for a male child born 6/12/86, on request of BCCYS and in accordance with applicable federal regulations, effective 6/12/04 through 6/12/05 in the form of Purchased Care from the Children's Home of Easton at the per diem rate of \$90.00 to allow for completion of high school.

- D. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of Title IV-E Independent Living Program Certification of Executive Officers, for submission to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare-Independent Living Coordinator. Susan Kiscadden, CYS caseworker, explained that this program serves about 90 youth in the county who need help with transitioning from foster care to independence.

**IV. OTHER REQUESTS:**

***Budget Director:***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing 2004 Budget Appropriations in the total aggregate amount of \$46,174 and transfers in the amount of \$36,685 per listing dated June 11, 2004.

***Contract Coordinator:***

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing execution of Contract Agreements/Amendments as furnished by the Contract Coordinator, per attached listing dated June 11, 2004.

***Purchasing Director***

- A. Award Invitation to Bid #04-05-RC, award a five-year contract renewable for one additional five-year term, for the furnishing of elevator maintenance and repair services at the Courthouse and Services Center building to Otis Elevator Company with an office at 944 Marcon Blvd., Suite 140, Allentown, PA, 18109 at their bid price of \$93,000 per year for the first five years. If the County elects to continue the contract for the second five-year term, the annual price may be adjusted in accordance with the Producer Price Index but in no event shall the increase exceed ten percent (10%) of the previous contract amount. Renee Carpenter, Purchasing director informed the board that by bidding this existing contract the County will end of saving \$465,000 over the next five years.

***Solicitor:***

- A. Authorize resolution supporting the adoption by the Pennsylvania General Assembly of Governor Ed Rendell's proposed Growing Greener II initiative for fiscal year 2004-2005 and further, calling upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly to pass appropriate legislation placing the Growing Greener II Bond proposal on the November 2004 ballot for decision by the citizens for of the Commonwealth.

**Growing Greener continued:** Commissioner Schwank discussed the proposed \$800,000 bond issues proposed for the November Ballot by Governor Ed Rendell. She and Commissioner Scott spoke favorably for this bond issue that is expected to be funded by increased tipping fees for trash disposal and fines for air polluters across Pennsylvania.

Commissioner Scott stated that he is particularly supportive of this funding stream to pay for this bond issue but stated that he felt farmland preservation should be a higher allocation for the use of these funds than currently proposed.

- B. Resolution authorizing Duane Rashlich, Director of Real Estate, to execute all State Tax Equalization Board Certification forms as required by law. There was a brief discussion with the Director and the Commissioners regarding the inequities of County assessments particularly in the suburban areas of the County. Duane then briefly described the property assessment appeal process that is scheduled for this fall beginning July 1, 2004 and until August 1, 2004. It was then decided that Duane should plan to provide a presentation at a future workshop meeting on the appeal process to help educate County Citizens who wish to appeal their property assessments.
- C. Resolution Authorizing the execution of the Lease Agreement between Schaeffer Street Property, LLC and the County of Berks for office space located at Fifth & Schaeffer Streets, Boyertown for District Court 23-3-02.

**IV. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

**VI. CITIZEN COMMENT/BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45AM.